

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 21, 2009. Claims 68 to 79 and 81 to 93 are pending in the application, of which Claims 68, 81 and 93 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 67, 72, 80, 85 and 93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,452,688 (Suzuki). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 68 to 71, 73 to 79, 81 to 84 and 86 to 92 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the pending claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication.

Specifically, Claims 67 and 80 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 68 and 81 have been rewritten into independent form and independent Claim 93 has been amended to include the features of Claims 68 and 81. The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FGHS_WS 3504621v1